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trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 2, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during tne week ended Marcn 28 totaled an estimated 19.0 billion ton-miles, 0.8 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, tne Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 13 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 234.9 billion ton-miles, 0.8 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 28 totaled 453,781 cars, 1.5 percent below 1980, and 2.0 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.8 percent in the East, but down 2.4 percent in the South and 2.7 percent in the West. Compared witn tne corresponding week of 1980, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings, which totaled 128,063, were up 13.4 percent over 1980. Eleven of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported tnat piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended March 21 totaled 34,211 cars, down 2.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 62,537 trailers and/or containers, down 1.9 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 12 weeks of tne year was 379,344 cars, 5.9 percent lower than last year, and 686,742 trailers and/or containers, down 5.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/28/81:

	Loadings in Week ended March 28, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	22,953	D	4,796	17.3	D	4,443	16.2
Other farm products	3,083	D	476	13.4	D	293	8.7
Metallic ores	27,525	I	145	0.5	D	312	1.1
Coal	128,063	I	15,143	13.4	D	7,278	5.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,567	D	843	6.3	I	230	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	13,293	D	1,307	9.0	D	208	1.5
Grain mill products	15,260	D	2,104	12.1	D	422	2.7
Food and kindred products	16,846	D	2,789	14.2	I	384	2.3
Primary forest products	19,190	D	103	0.5	D	402	2.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,888	I	260	2.7	I	879	9.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,687	D	2,216	9.7	I	38	0.2
Chemicals and allied products	31,237	I	896	3.0	I	838	2.8
Petroleum products	5,359	D	594	10.0	I	340	6.8
Stone, clay and glass products	15,338	D	593	3.7	I	427	2.9
Coke	6,262	D	496	7.3	D	283	4.3
Metals and products	18,184	D	1,899	9.5	I	657	3.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,745	I	1	0.0	I	879	4.7
Waste and scrap materials	13,213	D	998	7.0	D	588	4.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,553	D	1,268	9.9	I	307	2.7
All other carloads	43,248	D	3,045	6.6	D	74	0.2
LCL traffic	287	I	65	29.3	I	16	5.0
Total Cars Loaded	453,781	D	7,017	1.5	D	9,308	2.0
Corresponding week of 1980	460,798						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (13 weeks)	5,621,646	5,739,879	D	2.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
12 Weeks cumulative	215.9	213.9	I	0.9
Week ended March 28	19.0	19.2	D	0.8
13 Weeks cumulative	234.9	233.1	I	0.8

AARt-040281